

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:LEKENNEDY:CED

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R 302058Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC OVIP PFOR EEWT MNUC CH US

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM EA/PRCM WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

SCHOLARLY COMMITTEE INSISTS ON NUMERICAL BALANCE
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1. THE COMMITTEE ON SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRC (CSC) HAS NOW WRITTEN TO ITS CHINESE COUNTERPART PROPOSING A SCHEDULE FOR 1976 WHICH DEFERS TWO CHINESE DELEGATIONS UNTIL 1977. THIS IN EFFECT WOULD RESULT IN A NUMERICAL BALANCE FOR 1976 AT FIVE DELEGATIONS FROM EACH SIDE. THE CSC ACTION FOLLOWS CHINESE REFUSAL TO AGREE TO LET CSC SEND TWO MORE DELEGATIONS TO THE PRC DURING 1976. IF THE CHINESE ACCEPT THE CSC PROPOSAL, THE NET EFFECT WILL BE TO REDUCE TOTAL US-PRC EXCHANGES IN 1976 BY TWO.

GOVERNORS' TRAVEL TO THE PRC (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

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2. WE-HAVE LEARNED THAT GOVERNOR BRISCOE OF TEXAS HAS RECEIVED PEKING'S APPROVAL TO LEAD A DELEGATION OF ABOUT 15 TEXANS TO THE PRC IN AUGUST. WE ARE PROVIDING BRIEFING MATERIALS TO THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF AND HAVE OFFERED FURTHER ASSISTANCE.

3. I ALSO RECENTLY MET WITH GOVERNOR LUCEY OF WISCONSIN, TO DISCUSS HIS INTEREST IN LEADING A WISCONSIN GROUP TO THE PRC. HE HAS NOT YET CONTACTED THE CHINESE.

4. THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE ALSO WANTS TO SEND A DELEGATION IN 1976, AS IT DID IN 1974. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, GOVERNOR RAY, PLANS TO SEND A LETTER TO PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN PROPOSING SUCH A TRIP IN JUNE. WE ARE PREPARED TO ENDORSE THE IDEA TO THE CHINESE IN GENERAL TERMS.

NUCLEAR TEST ANNOUNCEMENT STRESSES IDEOLOGICAL FACTORS
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5. ON JANUARY 24, PEKING ANNOUNCED THE PRC'S 18TH NUCLEAR TEST, A LOW-YIELD BLAST ON JANUARY 23. SINCE 1971, TEST ANNOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY TERSE AND FACTUAL, EMBROIDERED ONLY BY A RESTATEMENT OF THE PRC'S STANDARD LINE ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND A DEFENSE OF THE NEED TO CONDUCT SUCH TESTS IN ORDER TO "BREAK THE NUCLEAR MONOPOLY OF THE SUPERPOWERS." THE LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT REVERTED TO PRE-1971 PRACTICE BY ADDING A LONG PARAGRAPH LISTING THE IDEOLOGICAL FACTORS IN THIS NUCLEAR SUCCESS STORY, AND ANOTHER PRAISING PLA, SCIENTISTS, AND WORKERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE TEST. WE HAVE NO IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION FOR THE CHANGE OF TONE.

1975 TRADE TOTALS (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. US-PRC TRADE FIGURES FOR THE YEAR HAVE JUST BECOME AVAILABLE. DECEMBER TOTALS WERE marginally HIGHER THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED, SO THAT THE TOTALS FOR THE YEAR CAME TO US EXPORTS OF DOLS. 303.8 MILLION AND US IMPORTS OF DOLS. 158.3 MILLION.

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CONTACTS WITH CONGRESS (UNCLASSIFIED)

7. STAPE ROY BRIEFED SENATOR GARY HART JANUARY 28 ON THE SINO-SOVIET-US RELATIONSHIP. HART REQUESTED THE BRIEFING IN PREPARATION FOR A CONFERENCE HE IS ABOUT TO ATTEND IN THE UK.

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